

MEDICAL EDUCATION OF LADIES.

ITS PERMANENCY ASSURED IN CANADA.

The higher education of women has been one of the leading topics in private and public controversy for the past few years. It has been viewed in every light and discussed on every side by prominent educationists, business men and philosophers, bitter opponents, earnest partisans, and moderate thinkers, until to-day it is freely admitted that a generous education is necessary to fortify a woman for the business of life, whether as a bread-winner or as the intelligent companion of the other half of mankind, and the mother of the children who are to be trained to take their stand in the next generation.

The advantages of higher schools and the universities are now extended without limit to the sex hitherto considered fit for life and all its sacred duties, with its mind but half expanded and its ideas narrowed and warped by ignorance and restriction. Several have already availed themselves of the opportunity, and periodically we read of their successes in graduating and winning honors at the highest examinations in the land. Some of the graduates in arts are now earning large salaries as teachers, while those in medicine are established in lucrative practice. One is a medical missionary in Central India, and the reports from there speak of the great good she is already accomplishing. The lady students in medicine are steadily increasing, and, in the autumn of next year, another graduate will leave for India as a missionary.

THE CALENDAR

here presented of the Kingston Medical School for Women, in affiliation with Queen's University, gives an idea of the work attempted in medicine. Queen's, the first in the Dominion to open her doors to women, has earned the gratitude of all interested in the cause, and through her influence and that of the citizens of Kingston, aided generously by Dr. Jenny K. Trout, of Toronto, a college has been established entirely with the aim of extending to women the best advantages in the study of medicine. The finances and entire management

are in the hands of a committee chosen from prominent friends of the work, who are bending every energy towards its success.

The ample endowment fund contributed, together with the students' fees, have enabled them to pay the Professors fair salaries, to comfortably fit up and equip the College class-rooms with proper teaching appliances, and at the end of the last session to leave a good balance in the treasury. The College was never so prosperous as now, and organized as it was by the unselfish liberality of men and women who wish to secure to grown up and growing girls the means of educating themselves for a useful profession, it deserves the hearty support of all Canadians interested in the higher education of women.

The examinations are conducted in the Convocation Hall of Queen's University, and the papers are identical with those written upon by the male students. The degrees M.D., C.M., conferred, and the professional standing gained thereby, are therefore similar in every respect.

As many letters are being received regarding the cost of the course and other details, this circular has been issued in order to answer all questions, and also that ladies who are about to decide upon their future course in life may get an idea of what the study of medicine offers. Teaching and the other avenues open to the sex only afford a temporary means of livelihood, not an independence and security against old age and adversity, or the changes in the standard and value of certificates.

Earnest, intelligent girls or women take kindly to the study and give every promise of making thorough and successful practitioners. At a total cost of from \$550 to \$575, or about \$136 per year for four years (fees \$64, and good board at \$3 per week for six months being \$72), a student is rendered independent in money matters, while the knowledge gained, aside from every other consideration, is of great benefit and should exert an ennobling influence on either man or woman. Already hundreds of suffering women have expressed their gratitude for the boon of a physician of their own sex. A few more years will find a lady doctor established in every district of the country, and realizing their opportunities, they will wield much power for the general good, both bodily and otherwise, of womankind.

Appended are a few extracts from speeches of prominent men on the subject :

PRINCIPAL GRANT, OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, SPEAKS.

He said each century was widening the sphere and opening new avenues for women. First, women were used as drudges; then it was thought they would make good sweethearts—which is the case still—then wives, mothers, sisters and companions. Now they can be found in business circles and entrusted with great responsibilities. He did not

think a mother would be less fit to be a mother if she had a medical education. There was a distinction between a medical training and practice of the profession; those who desire the training may not wish to practice; then the household gets the benefit. Fair trials were given to women in England and the United States, and Canada should not be behind. With regard to "indelicacy," women made best of nurses, and as such had just as unpleasant duties to perform as had medical men. He referred to the great good being done by lady doctors in China, and stated that the natives of India were imploring the Queen to send them to that country to attend the women. He thought one ladies' college in Canada sufficient, and if he thought the one proposed at Toronto would have the united confidence of ladies, he would not favor establishing one in Kingston. In order to prove that the Toronto institution would not have the confidence of the ladies, he read a letter from Dr. Jenny Trout, which stated that she had retired from the movement, for the reason that they would not allow ladies on the Board of Trustees. She would heartily assist the Kingston movement and subscribe \$200 per year for five years. (Applause). He was in favour of allowing ladies on the Board of Management and on the staff of professors as well.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

He said he believed in the higher education of women. He thought that if women were physically weaker than men there was all the more reason that they should not be debarred from work which did not require great strength and for which good incomes are obtainable.

One of the sources of evil to our country is the growing tendency of young men to leave their farm-homes for the city, where they engage in light work better suited to women, and thus their manly strength is lost to the country.

Referring to the introduction of a thorough system of hygiene in families, he said such could not be accomplished unless through the instrumentality of educated women.

THE HON. MR. KIRKPATRICK, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

said that at first he felt shy as to the success of the movement, but now he was of a different opinion. Regarding women's delicacy, he thought that their delicacy was one reason why they should be doctors.

EX-MAYOR GILDERSLEEVE

considered it was tyranny to put stumbling blocks in the way of ladies who desired to study medicine. There was something lacking in the general system when women were not allowed to pursue a course with a view to earning their own livelihood. It was tyranny that there was no opening of a superior nature for women like there was for men. Kingston had taken a creditable stand, and he hoped she would keep up her reputation.

MR. H. FOLGER, BANKER,

said that the reformation with regard to women was as sure to come as grey hairs through time. Women were equal to men in mental capacity, as has been shown at college examinations. It was far more modest for women to study medicine than for men to treat women for certain diseases. He was in favor of giving women privileges in every department of science. Thirty years ago there was only one lady doctor in the United States; now there were about 500. He had a conversation with Dr. Putnam (a lady) at New York, and she satisfied him that women were in every way adapted for the study and practice of medicine. They improved materially under the study. Dr. Putnam has a magnificent residence, and when he called he was ushered in by a negro who wore white kid gloves. She is not only a doctor but a good wife and mother, and her practice amounts to annually about \$30,000. He closed by stating that he saw every reason why ladies should study medicine, because they were natural doctors.

DR. LAVELL, WARDEN OF THE PENITENTIARY, AND DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF THE WOMEN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE.

No lady, he stated, compromised herself in the least in studying medicine. Those in the College now were not only ladies but Christian ladies too. He did not want ladies to study medicine for the mere novelty of it. They should have a religious object in view. He wished that all ladies had a knowledge of medicine, as it might be of vast benefit to them in every walk of life; but now that they had begun to study medicine there would probably be a revolution regarding the treatment of women before long. He closed most interesting remarks with a reference to the increased facilities, and to the new suite of rooms on the upper flat of the building, which have no superior in Canada for the purpose for which they are used.

THE WORLD OVER.

Referring to the progress of women's medical education in England, the *Liverpool Mercury* says: "The Government have made a significant concession in favor of lady doctors by appointing Miss Shove as Medical Superintendent of the women staff at the Metropolitan General Post Office. The field for lady doctors has been greatly widened by a movement in India to give the women of that country medical advisers of their own sex. Very large sums have been contributed, and one native gentleman has offered \$50,000 to build an hospital for women and children, to be entirely under lady doctors. In India, as in other countries, females not unfrequently endure untold miseries rather than consult medical men. The information collected by the Zenana missions has excited a strong feeling in favor of medical women. \$25,000 has been raised at Bombay as a guarantee fund for expenses to qualified ladies who will go out to that country to act as doctors."